



Written Testimony of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society

House Bill 356 AN ACT CONCERNING ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Public Health Committee – March 7, 2016

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the more than 200 orthopaedic surgeons of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding ***House Bill 356, AN ACT CONCERNING ATHLETIC TRAINERS***.

Thousands of athletes are expertly cared for on and off the playing field by Athletic Trainers under the supervision of physicians. Working closely as a team to care for athletes and return them to play, we have strong professional relationships and work closely with athletic trainers in our State and have a comprehensive understanding of the role of athletic trainers and the injured athlete. The care they provide under the direction of a physician, oftentimes an orthopaedic surgeon, is an important component to the “team approach” of caring for athletes.

The Connecticut Orthopaedic Society believes that the change from “Athlete” to “Physically Active Individual,” reflects the national standard currently being used by the National Athletic Trainers Association and recognized by many states. The national standardization will provide a consistent definition for trainers who travel out of state with their teams and need to care for the athlete. We would like to point out that this change may have unintended consequences by allowing athletic trainers in the future to provide services in other settings, not just limited to athletics.

Conceptually we support the change in care and treatments they can provide as proposed in this bill, however our Society would appreciate the opportunity to keep open the dialogue with both the CATA (CT Athletic Trainer’s Association) and this Committee as the legislative process continues and language changes evolve.

In addition, we respectfully request that legislators encourage all future scope requests go to the Connecticut Department of Public Health to utilize the Department’s expertise and follow the established legislative protocol developed and granted by Connecticut’s General Assembly and codified in statute ([Connecticut General Statutes 19a-16d - 19a-16f](#)).

The Connecticut Orthopaedic Society appreciates this Committee’s serious consideration and the opportunity to provide feedback regarding this important bill.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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